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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

Armenia, Belarus, Brazil, Japan, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine: draft resolution

Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 45/190 of 21 December 1990, 46/150 of 18 December 1991, 47/165 of 18 December 1992, 48/206 of 21 December 1993, 50/134 of 20 December 1995, 52/172 of 16 December 1997, 54/97 of 8 December 1999, 56/109 of 14 December 2001, 58/119 of 17 December 2003 and 60/14 of 14 November 2005, as well as its resolution 55/171 of 14 December 2000 on closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, and taking note of the decisions adopted by the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system in the implementation of those resolutions,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/50 of 13 July 1990, 1991/51 of 26 July 1991 and 1992/38 of 30 July 1992 and Council decision 1993/232 of 22 July 1993,

Conscious of the long-term nature of the consequences of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, which was a major technological catastrophe in terms of its scope and complexity and created humanitarian, environmental, social, economic and health consequences and problems of common concern, requiring for their solution wide and active international cooperation and coordination of efforts in this field at the international and national levels,

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Expressing profound concern at the ongoing effects of the consequences of the accident on the lives and health of people, in particular children, in the affected areas of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as well as in other affected countries,

Noting the consensus reached among members of the Chernobyl Forum[1] on the environmental, health and socio-economic effects of the Chernobyl disaster, in particular, its message of reassurance and practical advice to communities living in territories affected by Chernobyl,

Acknowledging the importance of the national efforts being undertaken by the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster,

Recognizing the contribution of civil society organizations, including the national Red Cross Societies of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in response to the Chernobyl disaster and in support of the efforts of the affected countries,

Welcoming with appreciation the developmental approach to tackling the problems caused by the Chernobyl disaster aimed at normalizing the situation of the individuals and communities concerned in the medium and long term,[2]

Stressing the exceptional Chernobyl-related needs, in particular in the areas of health, environment and research, in the context of the transition from the emergency to the recovery phase of mitigation of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster,

Noting the completion in 2006 of the transfer of responsibility from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to the United Nations Development Programme for the coordination of Chernobyl efforts,

Stressing the need for further coordination by the United Nations Development Programme and improved resource mobilization by the United Nations system to support activities aimed at the recovery of Chernobyl-affected territories, inter alia, community-based development projects, the promotion of investment and the creation of new jobs and small businesses, advocacy work and the provision of relevant policy advice on request and the widest possible dissemination of the findings of the Chernobyl Forum through the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of resolution 60/14,[3] as well as relevant parts of the reports of the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system,

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[1] The members of the Chernobyl Forum are drawn from the following organizations and bodies within the United Nations system: International Atomic Energy Agency, United Nations Development Programme, World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Environment Programme, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation and World Bank, as well as representatives of the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

[2] See the United Nations report entitled "The Human Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident: A Strategy for Recovery".

[3] A/62/467.

1. *Welcomes* the contribution made by States and by organizations of the United Nations system to the development of cooperation to mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, the activities of regional and other organizations and those of non-governmental organizations, as well as bilateral activities;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts undertaken by the agencies of the United Nations system and other international organizations members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Chernobyl to continue implementing a developmental approach to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, in particular through the development of specific projects, and stresses the need for the Inter-Agency Task Force to continue its activities to that end, including through coordinating efforts in the field of resource mobilization;

3. *Acknowledges* the difficulties faced by the most affected countries in minimizing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and invites States, in particular donor States and all relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations, to continue to provide support to the ongoing efforts of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, including through the allocation of adequate funds to support medical, social, economic and environmental programmes related to the disaster;

4. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations should continue to play an important catalytic and coordinating role in the strengthening of international cooperation to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl, in his capacity as Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and as Chairperson of the United Nations Development Group, to continue to take appropriate practical measures to strengthen coordination of the international efforts in that area;

6. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Government of Ukraine and the international donor community to complete construction of the shelter facility and related nuclear safety projects at Chernobyl, in accordance with international standards, so as to transform the site into a stable and environmentally safe state, recognizes and welcomes the recent contract signatures under the Shelter Implementation Plan as important milestones, and urges all parties to ensure that a strong, long-standing, high-level commitment remains in place to ensure the successful completion of this vital work;

7. *Also welcomes* the recent appointment as a United Nations Development Programme Goodwill Ambassador of star tennis player Maria Sharapova, who will serve as an advocate for post-Chernobyl recovery efforts, and praises her personal commitment in supporting a number of recovery projects that aid local communities in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine;

8. *Notes with satisfaction* the realization of the Cooperation for Rehabilitation Programme in Belarus and the Chernobyl Recovery and Development Programme in Ukraine, aimed at promoting better living conditions in and the sustainable development of the affected territories;

9. *Also notes with satisfaction* assistance rendered by the International Atomic Energy Agency to Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine on remediation of agricultural and urban environments, cost-effective agricultural countermeasures and the monitoring of human exposure in areas affected by the Chernobyl disaster;

10. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the progress made by the Governments of the affected countries in implementing national strategies to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and calls upon United Nations agencies and multilateral and bilateral donors to continue to align their assistance with the priorities of the national strategies of the affected States, and stresses the importance of working together on their implementation in a common effort in the spirit of cooperation;

11. *Notes* the necessity of further measures to ensure the integration of the assessment by the Chernobyl Forum of the environmental, health and socio-economic consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident into the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network process through dissemination of the findings of the Forum, including by providing accurate information on the impact of radiation in accessible, non-technical language in the form of practical messages on healthy and productive lifestyles, to the populations affected by the accident in order to empower them to maximize social and economic recovery and sustainable development in all its aspects;

12. *Proclaims* the third decade after the Chernobyl disaster (2006-2016) as the Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions, to be focused on achieving the goal of a return to normal life for the affected communities as far as is possible within this time frame;

13. *Welcomes* in this regard the proposal by the United Nations Development Programme to coordinate the drafting of a United Nations action plan for Chernobyl recovery to 2016 in order to implement the Decade, in support of national strategies of the affected countries, with the aim of maximizing limited resources, avoiding duplication of effort and building on recognized agency mandates and competencies, and requests the United Nations Development Programme to present a draft plan for review by the Chernobyl Inter-Agency Task Force by 26 April 2008, the twenty-second anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster;

14. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme to coordinate, within existing resources, the efforts of the United Nations system and other relevant actors on the implementation of the Decade;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in the implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions and, through existing coordination mechanisms, in particular the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl, to continue to maintain close cooperation with the agencies of the United Nations system, as well as with regional and other relevant organizations, while implementing specific Chernobyl-related programmes and projects;

16. *Requests* the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl to continue his work in organizing, in collaboration with the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, a further study of the health, environmental and socio-economic consequences of the Chernobyl disaster,

consistent with the recommendations of the Chernobyl Forum, and to improve the provision of information to local populations;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, under a separate sub-item, a report containing a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of all aspects of the present resolution.